

Dial 'M' for Misuse

DoD cracks down on telephone abuse

By Arthur McQueen
U.S. Army, Europe, Public Affairs

Your relatives may be pleased when they receive a call from overseas, but if you use a government line or government cell phone for personal calls, be prepared to pay.

No calls are free.

Service members and Department of Defense civilians can face embarrassment, reprimand, repayment, and punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice or administrative actions for misuse of government phones, said Eric Melton, a telecommunications specialist for U.S. Army, Europe.

What defines reasonable use is at the discretion of the commander and the telephone control officer, Melton said. It is understood that soldiers and civilians need to make brief local calls for appointments, or to contact a school, garage, landlord or their home.

"Abuse has increased over the past year, mostly due to cell phones," Melton said. "Personal calls that generate charges on government-issued cell phones are completely prohibited. There is no slack for abuse of these phones," he warned.

Cell phone users must therefore be aware of the charges applied to out-of-country calls. Personal international calls are in violation of USAREUR regulations and subject to action.

Also, cell phones using prepaid cards are not authorized for government use by federal regulation.

Telephone control officers are charged with monitoring calls made from all government phones, and they have the tools to do it: Call-tracking software packages and reports

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from service providers provide a complete picture of usage for every government telephone.

The telephone oversight has already begun having an effect. Recently, a deployed lieutenant colonel was required to reimburse the government \$10,000 due to personal use of his government cell phone while out of country.

Every month, USAREUR pays \$1.2 million for telephone service, Melton said. His office tracks roughly \$500,000 for Defense Switched Network calls, \$500,000 for "99" (civilian access) calls, and \$200,000 for calls made from government cell phones.

Melton said the costs point out a misconception about the DSN system – that calls between military numbers are free.

"Not so," he said.

"Within a metro area (roughly equivalent to a base support battalion), DSN calls begin at one cent per minute," Melton said. "DSN calls between metro areas or outside Europe are much higher."

For more information call Melton at 370-8602/civ. 06221-57-8602 or e-mail meltone@hq.hqusareur.army.mil.



Hugh C. McBride

No, no: We're not talking about that kind of abuse. However, unauthorized use of government telephones does constitute abuse – and it can have serious repercussions.

'Telepathology' links Germany to Walter Reed Medical Center

By Michael E. Dukes
Army News Service

A pathologist in Landstuhl Regional Medical Center turns off the lights and shuts the door as he leaves his office. His work for the day is over.

Shortly after his departure, though, the microscope on his desk comes to life, adjusts itself and starts examining a slide resting on its specimen plate.

It's not magic, and the microscope is not possessed – it is being remotely controlled from thousands of miles away at Walter Reed Army Medical Center where the day is just beginning.

This breakthrough technology comes at a time when the Army is faced with a shortage of pathologists (who study tissues removed from patients for diagnostic purposes).

Maj. Keith Kaplan, medical director of cytopathology at Walter Reed, said "telepathology" allows pathologists to do more with less, while improving the quality of patient care.

"Now we are able to do what would normally involve mailing slides or taking a bunch of pictures. We are able to control a microscope at a remote site and make an interpretive diagnosis," he said.

The telepathology system uses \$60,000 modified microscopes equipped with computerized servers to control movement.

A camera on top sends real-time

For more information

Walter Reed Health Care System
www.wrampc.amedd.army.mil

Walter Reed Department of Pathology
www.wrampc.amedd.army.mil/departments/pathology

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center
www.landstuhl.healthcare.hqusareur.army.mil



images to the computer, which then transmits them through secure Army networks back to Walter Reed or the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology for closer examination.

"Everything you would do at your own microscope you can do on this system," Kaplan said.

After extensive testing, he said, the system is now proving itself in a live medical setting.

"To date we've done over 150 cases in the Army medical department using remote telepathology. We are now preparing to deploy another 12 systems across the world, including Europe and Korea. And then we'll stay within [the continental U.S.] and hit some of the other medical centers and smaller treatment facilities," Kaplan said.

"My initial goal was to eventually deploy these microscopes in places to help support pathologists. I emphasize support and not replace. But, with the use of a technician who is able to prepare a slide and use the equipment, you

could do remote pathology without the live services of a pathologist out on the site should the need arise," he said.

Regarding the Army's shortage of pathologists, Kaplan said, "We have a lot of places now that are one-man shops. [The pathologist] is there by himself or herself without any help or any kind of immediate consultation.

"With this method we are able to throw a slide up there, call up somebody and get an answer in some cases within minutes," he added.

Kaplan said the system brings the Army many other benefits. He expects savings in shipping costs, paperwork and personnel.

"But those are greatly outweighed by the intangible benefits – that is, the ability to get this real-time consultation without having to jump through all of those hoops," Kaplan said.

"We can serve patients much more effectively over a shorter time span. It has certainly made strides in terms of the care we provide our beneficiaries."

Experts address information security in southern Germany

By Sgt. 1st Class Fred Parnell
Network Service Center

The Stuttgart-based 52nd Signal Battalion hosted an Information Systems Security Conference Jan. 22 and 23 in the Patch Community Club to keep its customers informed of advances in the field.

The conference was geared toward information technology transformation. Guest speakers described current IT operations under the Network Operations concept, which includes Network Management, Information Assurance, Computer Network Defense and Information Dissemination Management.

The intent of the conference was to develop an understanding of IDM and to educate customers how IDM and NETOPS are beneficial in supporting the southern region of Germany. With IDM, warfighters will gain force advantage from information advantage.

They will be able to rely on the 52nd Signal Battalion to ensure that the bandwidth needed is available – ensuring that the right information gets through to the right place at the right time.

The following subjects were presented:

- Regional Computer Emergency Response Team
- U.S. Army, Europe, Server Consolidation Plan
- Defense Message Systems implementation
- Automation Helpdesk services
- Information Assurance topics ranging from network compliance to vulnerabilities and anti-virus protection to general IT service support.

Technological advances will enhance the ability of the 52nd Signal Battalion to foster innovation while ensuring signal readiness to meet the demands of the warfighter.